

ITEMS OF INTEREST

An Illinois man found his runaway wife working, in male attire, in a Peoria tailor shop, where her sex was unsuspected.

Of the bishops, judges, and other official personages who took part in Queen Victoria's coronation forty-two years ago, all are now dead.

The work of rebuilding Tremont temple in Boston progresses rapidly. Part of the building will be ready for use before the close of this month.

The second highest bridge in the country is about being built across Mississippi at Minneapolis. It is to be 1,150 feet long, with two spans of 325 f

All the Mexican papers are agreed that in case of war with the United States, Uncle Sam would be used up in sixty days. We must be careful how Mexico is provoked.

There are more than 10,000,000 car wheels in use in the United States. The average life of a wheel is eight years, and it requires a little over a ton of pig iron to make four wheels.

A five-ton sail-boat, thirty feet in length, arrived at Stamford, Conn., last week, from Galveston, Tex., in charge of Fred Hall, a Stamford boy. The voyage occupied forty-two days.

Emma Lee, residing on Diamond hill, Lynchburg, Va., recently gave birth to four children, two boys and two girls, and all of them were living and doing well when last heard from.

The level of nearly all the lakes in the far West has been rising for several years past. Salt Lake has risen twelve feet in twenty-five years, and Winnemucca Lake twenty-two feet in four years.

A robin built her nest on a railroad switch near a depot in New Hampshire, directly under the signal light, and although about twenty-five trains daily passed by, she remained and raised a family.

Salt water is being distributed through Brooklyn daily, in three-gallon cans, for spouse baths for invalids and children. The water is pumped at night at the end of the iron pier, and is sold for four cents a gallon.

Henry Brittain, of Richmond, Ind., while asleep at noon fell from his second-story window, struck on a lumber pile with sufficient force to bounce him into a cistern eight feet away, and when some workmen who saw him fall ran to him he was still asleep.

A man who was kept awake hour after hour by the barking of a dog said he never wanted to use a shotgun so bad in his life. "What for—to shoot the dog?" asked the friend. "No," he replied, "but to shoot the fool who wrote, 'Tis sweet to hear the watch dog's honest bark.'"

There were 800,000 tons of ice secured on the Kennebec river, in Maine, last winter, which, at \$2.50 per ton, will produce \$2,000,000. This is more ice by 100,000 tons than was ever secured on the river before, and the total crop of the state is estimated at 1,500,000 tons.

The Veronese surcoat is the Parisian form of the Jersey. It is made of a network of fine silk, and closely follows the figure. It is woven of all sizes to suit various figures, and fits to a marvel. To render it more dressy, and also more mysterious, it is embroidered with beads.

A Waterbury, Conn., officer the other day called at a house and asked if the family had any dogs to be registered. "No, sir," was the prompt reply. He thereupon imitated a dog's bark so effectively that he started up three dogs that were in the cellar, thus disclosing their whereabouts.

It is common now in the English metropolis to meet with young men who are prematurely round-shouldered and walk with bent knees and a sort of crab-like movement. Riders of the so-called "steel horse" may be interested to know that this ungraceful appearance has been named the "bicycle back" in honor of the pastime that causes it.

Staying too Long in Friendly Visits.

One class of persons will need an especial amount of grace this summer. We mean those women who, having worked hard in their homes all winter are visited by their city friends all summer. Perhaps they have married the sons, who, by fate of fortune, have kept the old homes. All the brothers and sisters, with their troops of children, must come back to the shade trees and meadows for a quiet rest. Perhaps they have no special love for the woman who presides over the old-time house, but—it is such a convenient thing to have a place to visit where there are no board bills to pay. Ten to one, the wife in the country is more worn than her city relatives, and is in no wise able to bear the extra care, or manage the additional cooking. For force of circumstances she has been dressmaker, milliner and servant, maybe, in her large family the whole year through. She has turned dresses wrong side out and upside down. She has made every dime go its farthest. And now the visitors have come to use up all her self sacrifice has saved. It might have been pleasant to have received them for three days, but when they remain three months the case is different. We once heard a gentleman remark that he "could say all the new things he had to say to visitors in one day," and, as a rule, we quite agree with him. The cheapest way to visit is to go to a hotel or boarding house, and pay an equivalent for what one receives. Of course, one has congenial friends whom it is a pleasure to seek much and often; but too many so-called friends and persons who are serving their own convenience—persons who never offer to help in kitchen or parlor, and seem oblivious to the fact that anything is being done for them. Don't make your summer trip at the expense of anybody's comfort. Let your religion, if you profess it, permeate all your plans, especially those for summer visiting.

Mark Twain's Cook Book.

Recipe for New England Pie.—To make this excellent breakfast dish, proceed as follows: Take a sufficiency of water and a sufficiency of flour and construct a bullet proof dough. Work this into the form of a disk, with the edges turned up some three-fourths of an inch. Toughen and flin dry it a couple of days in a mild but unvarying temperature. Construct a cover for this redoubt in the same way and of the same material. Fill with stewed dried apples; aggravate with cloves, lemon peel and slabs of citron; add two portions of New Orleans sugar; then solder on the lid and set it in a safe place till it petrifies. Serve cold at breakfast and invite your enemy.

Recipe for German Coffee.—Take a barrel of water and bring it to a boil; rub a chicory berry against a coffee berry, then convey the former into the water. Continue the boiling and evaporation until the intensity of the flavor and aroma of the coffee and chicory has been diminished to a proper degree; then set aside to cool. Now unharness the remains of a once cow from the plow, insert them in a hydraulic press, and when you shall have acquired a tea-spoonful of that pale blue juice which a German superstition regards as milk, modify the malignity of its strength in a bucket of tepid water, and ring up the breakfast. Mix the beverage in a cold cup, partake with moderation and keep a wet rag around your head to guard against over-excitement.

British and American Railway Systems.

The contrast between the British and American systems of railways is very remarkable. The mileage of the former is only 17,696 miles, the latter 86,497. The cost of the former is \$3,585,000,000, double our funded national debt and close upon the total of the English debt. The cost of our system in operation to December, 31, 1879, is placed by Mr. Poor at \$4,416,000,000 on 84,232 miles, or \$4,919,000,000 on the whole system of 86,497 miles. The difference in the average cost per mile is very great—in Great Britain \$202,000 per mile; in the United States, \$50,00 average per mile. The gross earnings, on the other hand, are directly reversed. The British lines, on 17,696 miles, last year took in \$308,000,000. The lines of the United States, on 84,232 miles in full operation last year, took in \$529,000,000. The proportion of passengers to freight on the former is greater than in this country, though only 42 per cent of the whole earnings. The operating expenses in Great Britain average 52 per cent; in the United States, 58.40 per cent.

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